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Blue Heron, also called Mine 18, once employed over 200 workers and was home for nearly two dozen families. It had a school, a church, a company store and one of the largest and most up-to-date tipples of that region and time.

Today there is little left of the community once known as home and workplace to so many.

Only the ghost of the tipple that once separated, crushed and sized the coal from nearby mines remains of the original structure here. The mines at Blue Heron held far less accessible coal than originally thought to be here. This camp, like so many others, was closed, eventually leaving only the story of the miners and their families and the beauty of the natural surroundings behind.

As you visit Blue Heron today, you will see what remains of the tipple and learn how it worked and get some notion of what mining coal here was like. The central story, however, is what it was like to live in such a place only a short time ago.

There is no written history of Blue Heron. What we know comes from the recollection of the people who lived, worked and visited here. This is their place and their story.































